



**Ebenezer**  
CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART.

# West Allis Kids Chronicle

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[www.ebenezerchildcare.com](http://www.ebenezerchildcare.com)



April 2023

## Center Happenings

Week of the Young Child April 1st–7th

Sneak Peek Week April 24th-28th

## EBT Transfer Due:

April 3rd

## Tuition is Due:

April 10th

April 24th



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## Coordinator's Corner

Hello Families,

We made it! Spring time is here in Wisconsin which means summer is just around the corner! Please be mindful of your child's outwear clothing as we transition between winter and spring, see your child's teacher with any questions.

Summer enrollment is due by April 1st. Please be sure to turn in our registration form to ensure a spot is held for you this summer. All children, including infants, must fill out a registration form. Please see the office with any questions.

We are excited to announce that our new indoor gross motor space upstairs is open. We are working on a special ribbon cutting event to showcase the room to all our families, so stay tuned as to when that will happen.

Our Summer Epic Adventures Sneak Peek Week, will be the week of April 24th-28th. Please stay tuned on the different activities that will occur each of these days. We will have a calendar out for families to preview when we get closer to the time.

Lastly, we are asking all families to

send us updated addresses and phone numbers if you recently moved or got a new phone. We want to be sure we have the most up-to-date contact information for each family.

### Open Positions:

We are still hiring, so if you know of anyone that wants to work in the Early Childhood field, send them our way and you can earn a referral credit towards your tuition!



~ Ms. Sarah & Ms. Abby

## Time to Celebrate!

### April Birthdays/ Anniversaries:

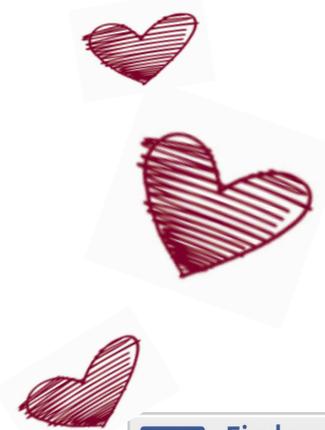
**Staff Birthday:** Shannon  
**Staff Anniversary:** Abby-4 Years  
Jen B-1 Year  
Amy-4 Years

**Turning 1-**  
Jackson G, Orion,  
Brayden P, Grayson

**Turning 2:**  
Zantana, Mylo, Gianna

**Turning 3:**  
Zariah, John, Iqbal,  
Gretchen

**Turning 4:**  
Maverick, Grace



# Curriculum Corner

- Dana Brumm, Curriculum Specialist

## Outdoor Explorations for Infants and Toddlers

Think back to your own childhood experiences. Do you remember digging in the dirt or the feel of the grass on your bare feet? Research shows that children are spending less and less time outdoors and the importance that outdoor experiences have on all ages.

Spending time outdoors is an important part of the daily curriculum for our infants and toddlers. They are eager to explore, to discover and to comprehend the world around them. Exploration with all a child's senses leads to growing motor and cognitive skills.

Your child is constructing their world piece by piece through all this sensory input. We, as early care educators, want to provide a stimulating environment for infants and toddlers, both indoors and outdoors. The following are examples of concepts and skills that our littles can learn through outdoor experiences.

- \* Social-Emotional Growth
- \* Physical Development
- \* Language Development
- \* Cognition

During the first three years, brain synapses form at a rapid rate. These connections are formed based on the richness of the child's sensory environment. So, not only is being outdoors an enjoyable experience, but it's also critical for cognitive development. In addition, infants and toddlers learn about nature and begin to develop a connection with and appreciation for the natural world. Infants' and toddlers' positive experiences with nature can play a part in how they come to value and care for the natural environment as they get older.

How can you support your infant or toddler outdoor experiences?

It can be intimidating to take an infant outdoors for a little play time, but with a few simple activities you can get your little ones exploring outside! Here are some ideas for outdoor activities for infants and toddlers:

- \* Cars and trucks
- \* Birds or bugs
- \* The wind through the trees rustling the leaves
- \* Pets

Talk about what they can see:

- \* A flower sprouting in a pot
- \* A butterfly or bee hovering
- \* The warmth of the sun or cool breeze

Talk about what they can feel:

- \* The blades of grass
- \* A crunchy or soft leaf
- \* A smooth rock
- \* The cool ground

Read more:

<http://thestay-at-home-mom-survival-guide.com/201/03/outdoor-activities-for-infants.html#ixzz4eoYWXmDt>

## Staff Highlight

### Ms. Abby-Associate Coordinator

Ms. Abby has a Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education. She has been in the field of Early Childhood Education for 16 years and has been with Ebenezer since 2019.

Ms. Abby believes children learn best through hands-on experiences. She enjoys using real life materials to engage and build learning skills. The majority of young children's learning happens during play opportunities.

Ms. Abby's goal is to begin taking the Administrative Credential (through UW-Platteville) this fall.

Ms. Abby has 2 dogs and 2 cats with her better half Chad. She loves spending time outside, reading, cooking, volunteering, music, writing and spending time with her family.

Thank you Ms. Abby for all that you do for Ebenezer families and children, we appreciate you!





THE  
VIRTUES  
PROJECT™

## Virtues of the Month: Cleanliness & Orderliness

Ebenezer's Virtues of the Month Program is about empowering adults and children to live by their highest values. The mission of the Virtues Program is to provide empowering strategies of excellence that inspire the practice of virtues at Ebenezer Child Care Centers as well as at home.

This month's virtues are:

**Cleanliness** is keeping our bodies, our thoughts and our spaces clean. It is an environment of order and beauty that brings peace to our souls.

**Orderliness** is creating an environment of peace and order. It is planning step by step instead of going in circles.

For more on The Virtues Project, visit [VirtuesProject.com](http://VirtuesProject.com).

## Earth Day is April 22!

Please take a moment to talk with your children about the importance of taking care of our Mother Earth.

Consider doing these things as a family: picking up garbage at a local park; planting a tree; not eating meat for the week; going microbead free; going for a walk or a bike ride; reading books about conservation; starting a compost bin; starting seeds for a garden; and shopping at a local farmers market.



## Referral Program Reward!

When you get a family to enroll at one of our three centers, you'll receive one week of free tuition (up to \$250)! All the family has to do is mention your name at the time of enrollment and stay enrolled for a minimum of four weeks. That's a lot of money to do something fun with! **PLEASE NOTE: This offer is also good for families who enroll in our EPiC Adventures Summer Program.**



## Happening this Summer at Ebenezer

Children will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math and Nature in a variety of ways. They will do this by using a map to guide their way into a summer filled with exciting adventures.

**SCIENCE** While playing-children will be experimenting, analyzing, predicting, and hypothesizing.

**TECHNOLOGY** While playing-children will explore tools of the trade, make their own inventions, and examine robots and cause and effect.

**ENGINEERING** While playing-children will learn about designing and building, take apart and put together all sorts of machines, and develop problem solving abilities.

**ART** While playing-children will discover the many layers of music, varieties of dance, and have an opportunity to delve into their hidden dramatic talents as well as utilize a variety of art materials.

**MATH** While playing-children will understand that math is not only about adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. They will be discovering spatial concepts and pattern relationships. They will be measuring, sequencing, and analyzing data.

**NATURE** While playing-children will locate (maybe even visit some) lakes, rivers, and streams. They will participate in recycling, and perhaps uncover their joy of landscaping and gardening.



Ebenezer's EPiC Adventures Summer Program will be held at our following locations:

**Downtown Center**

340 W. St. Paul Avenue

**Oak Creek Center**

220 W. Forest Hill Avenue

**West Allis/Wauwatosa Center**

1136 S. 108th Street



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CHILD CARE FROM THE HEART

For more information, call 414.643.5070 or visit [www.EbenezerChildCare.com](http://www.EbenezerChildCare.com).



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## April's Parenting Tip: The Importance of Play

What do most happy children, successful businesspeople, teachers, and scientists have in common? They love to play and understand that play is an important part of learning.

According to Beverly Anderson, Executive Director of Ebenezer Child Care Centers with locations in downtown Milwaukee, on Milwaukee's southside, and in Oak Creek and West Allis/Wauwatosa, "Research has shown that play is FUNDamental to living a healthy and productive life. It positively impacts a person's physical, social, intellectual, and emotional development. Yet, as adults in a work-obsessed society, it is something we often eliminate from our daily 'to-do' list."

Anderson says the benefits of play are so impressive that parents should incorporate some form of creative play into their children's lives every day. She adds that children who regularly participate in creative play have better problem-solving and adaptive abilities. They learn how to manage and transform their "negative" emotions and experiences and are supercharged for learning.

### Inspiring Creative Play

Anderson says one way you can inspire creative play is by reducing the control you exert over play time. "Provide your children with a creative environment, and then sit back and allow them to be spontaneous and become creative spirits," says Anderson. Using open-ended materials allows for children to direct their own play-based learning, as there are endless possibilities for what children can do or make.

"Tell them that it is okay to not always have the right answer to a problem as long as the answer they provide is innovative and shows some thought." Anderson says it is also important to encourage your children to use their creative energy to its fullest and always see a project to completion, rather than give up on it half-way through.

### Creative Games Worth Trying

Anderson suggests having children build a project, such as a robot, with things from around the house. This way you can use parts that move, make noise, and have unique shapes. The robot also has no specified requirements, so however it is made, it is made right.

Another idea is to start a story and have each of your children add onto it. You can have children draw pictures of what they think will happen next as well, or even find materials to make ideas from the story come to life.

Still one more idea is to provide your children with props, either new materials or something they show interest in, and observe how they use them to imitate the things, people, animals, and machines they see in the world every day.

### Things That Prevent Creative Play

Anderson says there are a number of things that are currently preventing children from participating in creative play. They include standardized testing, reduced free play and outdoor times in schools, and non-educational shows or video games where prepackaged scripts can limit a child's imagination. Overuse of electronic toys can also be overstimulating and reduce children's creative thought processes. And often, our rushed, overscheduled lives make it difficult to promote time for creative play.

### Tips to Enhance Your Children's Creative Play Time

#### Reduce screen time:

Turn off or limit time for TVs, smart phones, computers, and video games. Encourage make-believe play to inspire your children's inner creativity.

#### Choose open-ended toys:

Your children's imagination is the engine of healthy play. What were some of your favorite things to play with when you were a child? Boxes, blocks, balls, and stuffed animals or dolls can all be excellent stimulants for creative play. Another option is adding a variety of tools, containers, or even toys like cars or animal toys to familiar materials like sand, water, or rice to find new ways to play.

#### Encourage outdoor adventures:

Try to get outdoors every day, so your children can run, climb, find secret hiding places, and dream up wonderful adventures.

#### Let your children's creativity soar:

Avoid interrupting or taking over play but be available as needed to play with them, ask questions about what they are doing, and introduce them to new things. Let children know their play is important.

Ebenezer Child Care Centers is a not-for-profit, locally based agency committed to providing early childhood programs from the heart. The agency prides itself on being different from other child care providers in that it offers a home-like atmosphere; individualized, nurturing care; and structured curriculum that is virtue-based for every child's developmental stage.

Every Ebenezer Child Care Center focuses on all aspects of a child's development: cognitive, physical, emotional, and social. In addition to providing quality care, the agency also offers other educational programming all aimed at helping parents.

The agency has locations in downtown Milwaukee, Oak Creek, and West Allis/Wauwatosa. The agency's main office is located at 1138 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St in West Allis. For more information, please visit the agency's website at [www.ebenezerchildcare.com](http://www.ebenezerchildcare.com).